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## Twisted Literature List Can Guide Holiday Gift Giving

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**TWISTED LITERATURE LIST  
CAN GUIDE HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING**

DAYTON, Ohio — A judicious choice of literature can help combat the saccharine excess of the holiday season, says one English professor with a wicked sense of humor who recommends great books for specific recipients.

"There's entirely too much ho-ho-ho at this time of year," says Louis A. Marre, associate professor of English at the University of Dayton. "You need some vinegar."

For the newlyweds on your list, Marre recommends a nice edition of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. "He might pick up a few ideas about how to deal with his spoiled princess, and she might figure out that 'to get along, go along' is more than just political savvy talking," Marre says.

Administrators and high-level managers may find "a plain brown-covered copy of Machiavelli's *The Prince* exquisitely appropriate," Marre says. "If you are one of those givers who likes to add a personal touch, highlight the chapter headings 'Cruelty and compassion; and whether it is better to be loved than feared, or the reverse' and 'Those who come to power by crime.'

"If your friend is powerful in political fund raising, you might pass over the second item. He knows already," Marre says.

Relatives or friends intent on sharing their endless vacation slides or videos may be deterred by a gift of *Gulliver's Travels*. "It is the ultimate antidote to the unexamined assumption that travel is educational: Gulliver ends up in the stables, talking to his horses. He prefers their conversation to that of world travelers.

"Think your relatives will get the point?" Marre asks.

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